THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) The shortfall in the housing units in the year 1985 was estimated by the National Building Organisation, on the basis of the Census data, to be 24.7 million housing units. If the present trends continue and no further remedial measures are taken, the shortfall in the year 2001 AD is estimated to increase to 39.1 million dwelling units.

The proposed National Housing Policy seeks to encourage investment in housing in order to achieve a sustained and accelerated growth in the nation's housing stock and its conservation through the creation of an enabling environment by eliminating constraints and developing an efficient and accessible system for the delivery of housing inputs. Following are some of the important schemes and measures in operation or being initiated in this connection:—

—Establishment of the National Housing Bank and promoting a network of housing finance institutions.

—Construction of houses for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labour through the Indira Awas Yojna.

—Provision of house-sites and construction assistance to rural landless labour.

—Provision of sites and services and built units in urban areas for the economically weaker sections, low income groups etc.

—Various loan assistance schemes through HUDCO.

How soon and to what extent the shortfall in the housing units could be made up will depend upon the extent of public and private investment in housing and related infrastructure which is made and generated in the years to come.

Shortage of wheat seed

*108. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of wheat seed during the current Rabi season thereby jeopardising the prospects of making up the Kharif shortfall in food production in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the availability of wheat seed as against the demand and the measures taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The production of certified wheat seed suffered a setback due to untimely rains at the time of harvesting during the current year in the major wheat seed producing States like Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P.

The availability of certified wheat seed was reviewed with the State Governments. While most of the wheat-growing States could make their own arrangements, the States of Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir asked the Government of India to make arrangements for supply of additional quantity of 3 lakh quintals and 1 lakh quintals of wheat seed respectively. Jammu and Kashmir have recently revised their demand to 91,000 quintals. A special operation was undertaken through the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) to purchase quality grain from Food Corporation of India (FCI) test it for germination, process it and supply it to the States of Bihar and J&K for use as seed. The overall availability of the wheat seed is adequate to meet the requirement estimatd at about 19 lakh quintals